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Attn: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington VA 22313-1450 on this date 5/19, 2004.

By: Peggy Nichols Peggy Nichols

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application for:

H. Michael SHEPARD, et al.

U.S. Appl. No.: 10/051,320

Filing Date: January 18, 2002

For: **METHODS TO TREAT AUTOIMMUNE AND
INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS**

Confirmation No.: 8000

Examiner: Criares, T. J.

Art Unit: 1617

MAY 26 2004

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Arlington, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is submitted in reply to the Office Action issued November 19, 2003 by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified application. A response to this Action originally was due February 19, 2004. Enclosed herewith is a Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time and authorization to charge the amount of the extension fee to the undersigned's Deposit Account. In view of the filing of this Petition and payment of the fee, a response is now due May 19, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

Amendments to the Specification begin on Page 2 of this Reply.

The Listing of the Claims begin on Page 3 of this Reply.

The Remarks begin on Page 6 of this Reply.